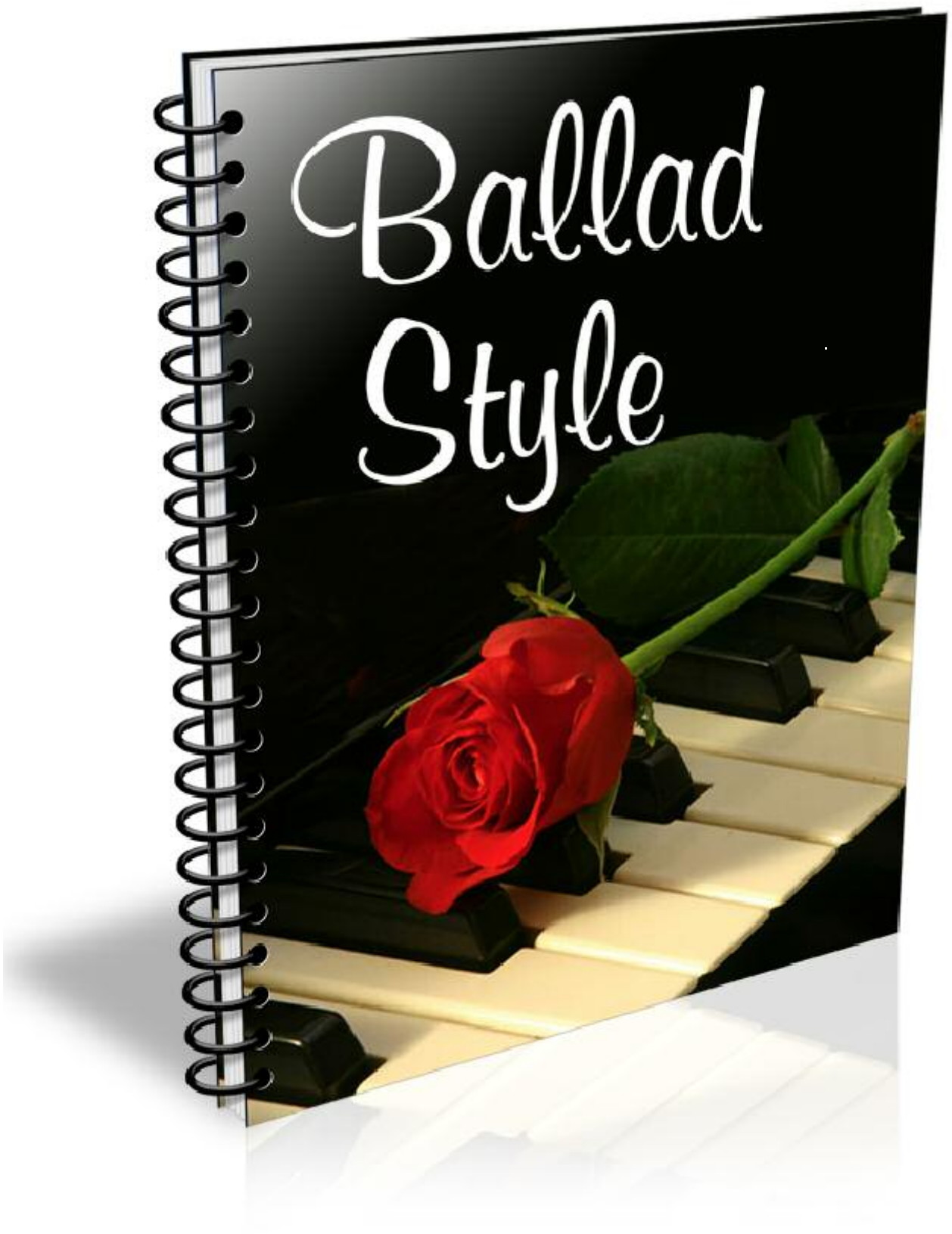
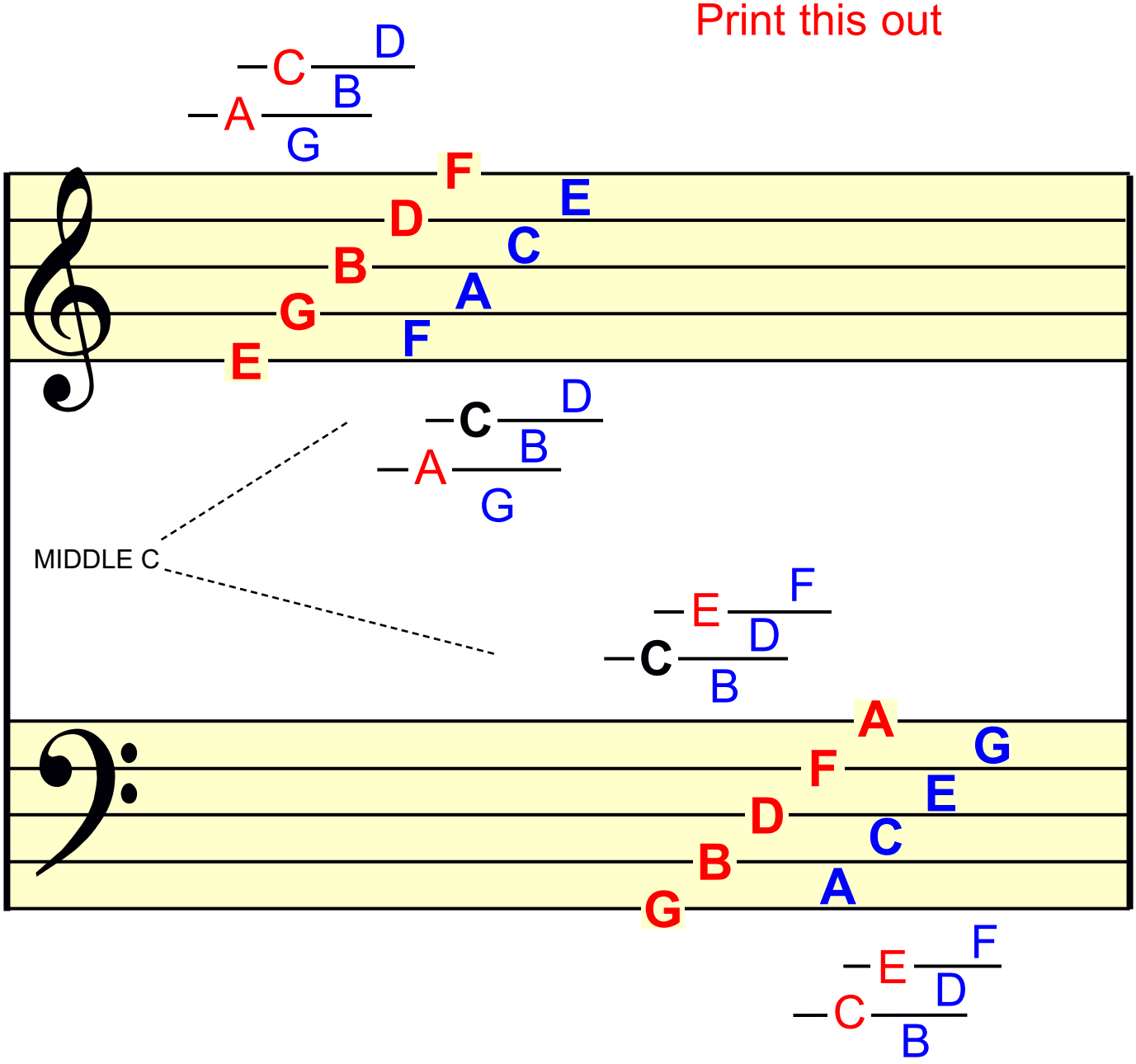
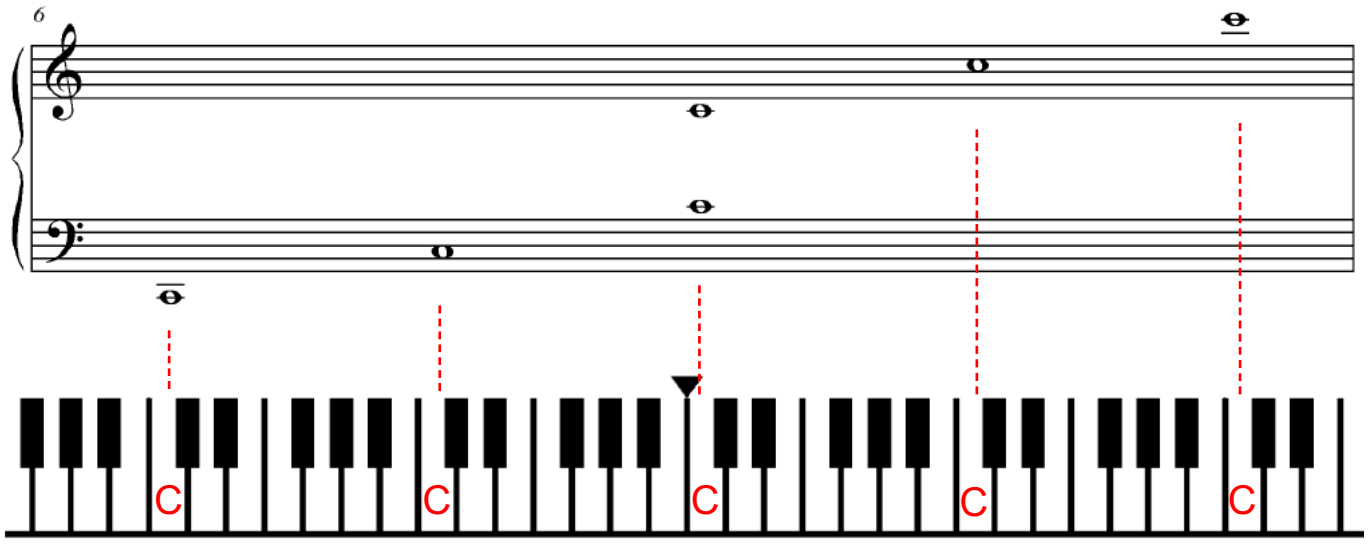

Ballad
Style

NOTE FINDER

Print this out



The position of the C's



DEVELOPING A BASIC BALLAD STYLE

GETTING THE FEEL OF IT

BALLAD STYLE

GETTING THE FEEL OF IT

Believe it or not, the EASIEST way to learn Ballad Style is to IMPROVISE before you learn any actual tunes. The reason for this is that is is quite difficult to remember the notes of actual tunes but it's a lot easier to play around and experiment with chord notes and special scales and patterns

Here's how we're going to approach learning BALLAD STYLE..

BALLAD STYLE PROCESS

1. Learn a simple LEFT HAND pattern that can be applied to any chord.

2. Put this pattern into a sequence of chords.

3. Learn the PENTATONIC SCALE - a magic 5 note scale that will sound GREAT over ALL your chords no matter what order you play the notes in!

4. EXPERIMENT with the magic scale - NO RULES!

5. Learn a more structured approach to playing Ballad style using various patterns and chord tones

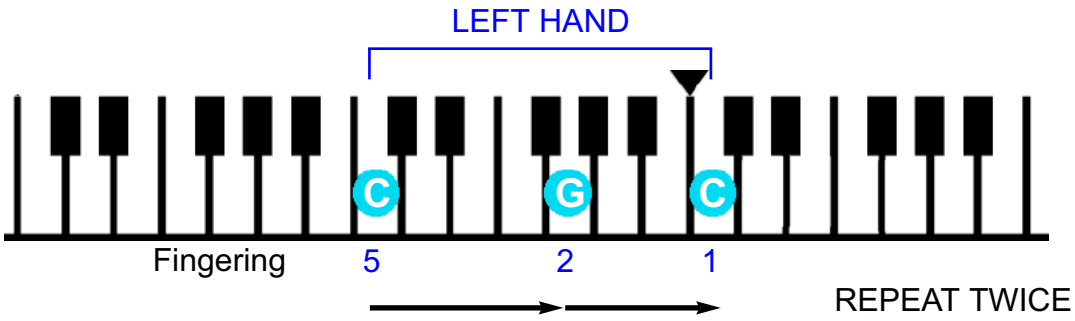
6. Apply what you have learned to ACTUAL melodies.

BALLAD STYLE

EXERCISE 1 - **getting the FEEL of it!**

Play the following sequence of notes (based on the chord of C) ONE note at a time from the low C up to the G up to the high C (hold the high C note for two beats)
Keep the sustain pedal down throughout

C



Now move the whole pattern TWO notes left based on the chord of Am

Am

Then two notes left again to F

F

Then one note right again to G

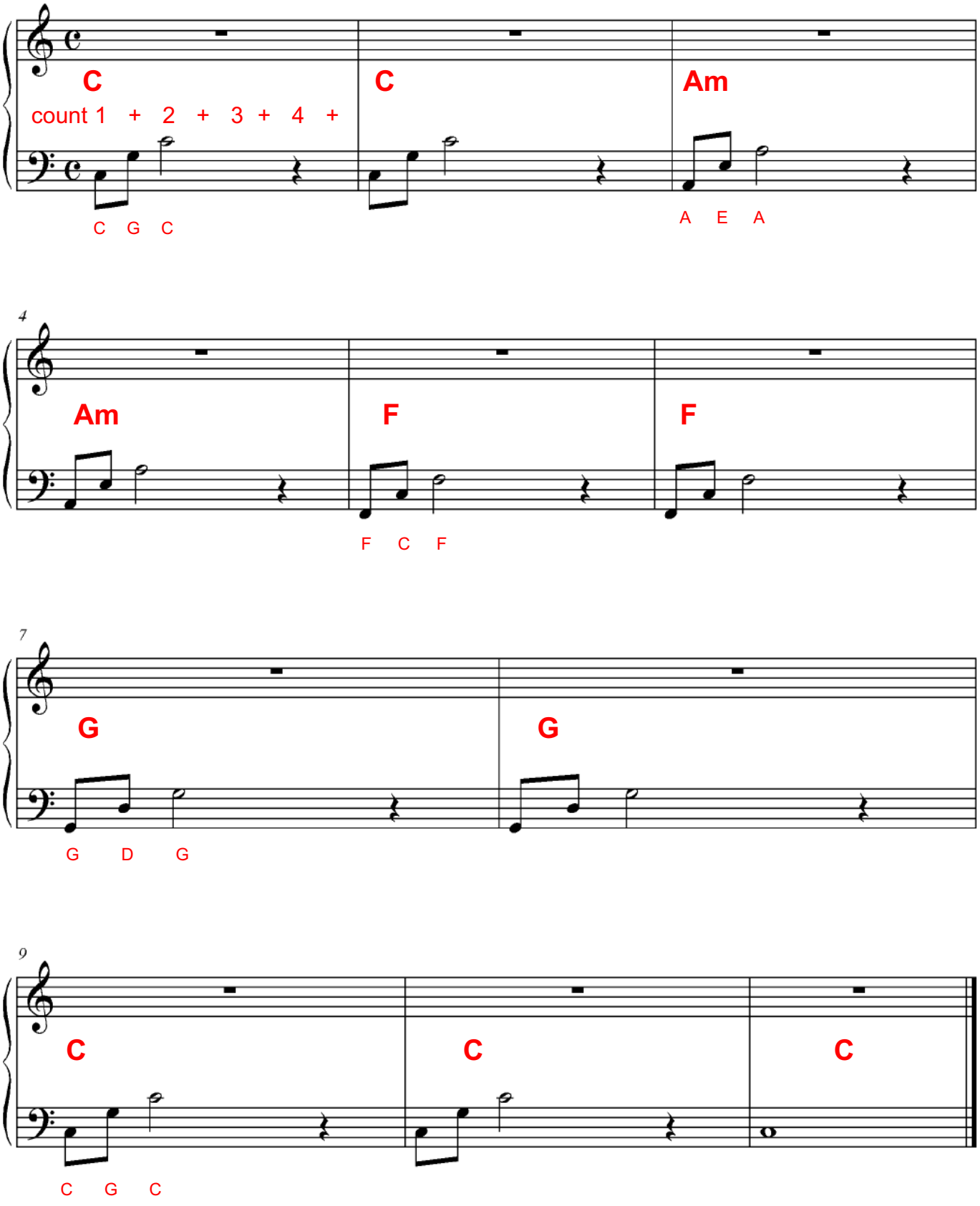
G

Play each sequence TWICE
So - 2 x C, 2 x Am, 2 x F, 2 x G and back to C

(Keep the sustain pedal down through each sequence
Lift it and replace it BETWEEN chord changes)

BALLAD STYLE

EXERCISE 1

In Musical Notation

BALLAD STYLE

EXERCISE 2

THE MAGICAL PENTATONIC SCALE

OK - you have the Left Hand sorted - what about the **RIGHT HAND**?

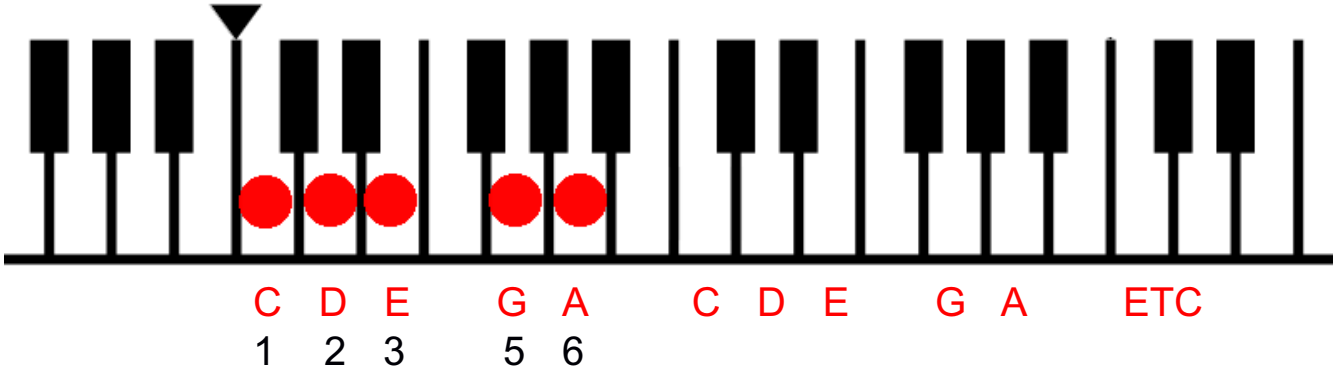
You are now going to learn the EASIEST and most useful scale of them all

The 5 note PENTATONIC SCALE.

This scale has been around since the dawn of time. The beauty of it is it sounds GREAT over a wide variety of chord changes (in the relevant key).

It's construction is simple. You play the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th of the major scale. (leave out the 4th and 7th)
So if you were playing chord changes in the key of C your C PENTATONIC scale would be as follows

C PENTATONIC SCALE (Right Hand)



On the following page you are going to play the same left hand chord changes as in exercise 1 but this time play ANY notes of the C pentatonic scale in the second half of each bar.

Don't be shy - try all kinds of variations - try running up two or three octaves

To give you more time to experiment with the RIGHT HAND only play each chord change ONCE but hold it for TWO bars

BALLAD STYLE **EXERCISE 3**